



# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church Newsletter

October 2023

## FROM INTERIM PASTOR SUSAN ENGHOLM

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 4:7*

Greetings, Bethel!

In his letter to the Philippians, Paul urges them to take their prayer requests to God and to center their lives on prayer. Paul knew that prayer was a powerful antidote to the worries and concerns that fill our daily lives.

In addition to being a pastor, I also serve as a spiritual director. In this role, I meet with individuals one-on-one and discuss the ways their faith intersects with their vocations. I accompany people as they share the story of their lives, and during that time we mutually listen for the ways God has been present throughout their lives.

Someone might seek out a spiritual director if they are facing discernment questions (like, "Should I take the job?", or, "Should I move?") Or, they might seek a spiritual director if they have gone through a significant life experience, which leads to them viewing their values and faith in a different light. Other times, people seek a spiritual director because they want to grow deeper in their personal prayer practices.

Taking Paul's advice to live lives of prayer, in these newsletters, I would like to offer a prayer practice each month. Some prayer practices that I offer might seem particularly meaningful to you, while others don't make as much sense. No worries! All of these are offerings for you to do with what you like.

This month, I invite you to simply pay attention to your breath. In this practice, take time to slow down your breathing in this pattern:

- Breathe in for a count of 4.

- Hold your breath for a count of 4.

- Breathe out for a count of 4.

- Continue to empty your lungs for a count of 4.

Then, repeat this pattern four times. After you have completed this cycle, let your breathing return to normal and simply notice how your body responded to paying attention to your breathing.

Why is this a prayer practice, you might ask? In both Greek and Hebrew, the word we translate as God's "Spirit," can also be translated as "wind" or "breath." In other words, this practice reminds us that God's Spirit is as near to us as our own breath. The simple act of giving thanks for the gift of breath and slowing down our breathing becomes a kind of prayer. I invite you to give this a try this month and let me know how it goes!

Dear friends, God is with you. In fact, God is as near to you as your own breath. Rest in this promise.

In Christ,  
Pastor Susan Engholm

# MISSION & MINISTRIES

## Driving Away Hunger

Designed to reduce transportation and mobility issues associated with food access in our communities. The Mobile Outreach vehicle is stocked with shelf stable pantry items, fresh produce, frozen proteins, grains, dairy, and bakery treats. STOP & SHOP THE BUS at no cost to you! Please bring bags and a cart to carry food. Staff are not permitted to carry food inside residence. Full grocery distributions available (1) one visit per month, per household, across all distribution sites. Produce available weekly. Staff will accommodate anyone not able to safely enter the vehicle for shopping. Questions? Call 320-664-2088. For other locations see the schedule on the bulletin board.



### MEFS Mobile Outreach

When: Thursdays

October 12 & 26  
1:30 pm-3:00 pm

Where:

Bethel Lutheran  
Church parking lot



In the next few weeks the cross will be sandblasted and repainted and put up again.

Removal of  
the Bell  
Tower  
Cross



### The Chosen: Season 3

We meet weekly on Sundays from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm in the church narthex. If you haven't yet viewed Seasons 1 and 2, you can do so online, or you are welcome to borrow Bethel's DVDs. Contact Jill Duncan with questions.



GOD has a MINISTRY for YOU in this CHURCH and a MISSION for YOU in the WORLD.

## Save the Date-Saturday, December 2, 2023

### Equipping Congregations Day: "Living the Word Today"

Come gather together as we enter the season of Advent with learning opportunities to equip congregations as we live the Word today. (Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar)

#### **Keynote Speaker:**

Rolf A. Jacobson, Luther Seminary Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Old Testament and The Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry.

#### **Workshops:**

A finalized workshop list will be available online soon.

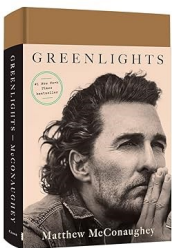
- The synod's e-newsletter will be highlighting workshop descriptions!
- Attend your choice of 2 out of 8 workshops.

#### **Preview of Workshops Topics:**

- Welcoming Refugees
- Rural Demographics
- Companion Synod Visitor Exchange
- Congregational Mission Grants
- Rural Mental Health
- Trauma Informed Care
- Congregational Hospitality
- Generosity

## October Book Club

### **Greenlights by Matthew McConaughey**



#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Discover the life-changing memoir that has inspired millions of readers through the Academy Award®-winning actor's unflinching honesty, unconventional wisdom, and lessons learned the hard way about living with greater satisfaction.

"The No. 1 celebrity memoir of the past 10 years."—USA Today

"McConaughey's book invites us to grapple with the lessons of his life as he did—and to see that the point was never to win, but to understand."—Mark Manson, author

**Discussion date:** Wednesday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.

## Happy Birthday!



- 10/3 Jon K.
- 10/4 Jan S., Sarah G.
- 10/7 Luke P.
- 10/8 Alayna S.
- 10/10 Connor R.
- 10/11 Cameron B.
- 10/12 Kristie C., Abigail C.
- 10/17 Roxanne S.
- 10/18 Quentin M.
- 10/19 David G.
- 10/20 Jane L.
- 10/22 Eric A.
- 10/28 Alex W.

## Celebrate your Baptism!



- 10/2 Tamie F., Ava D.
- 10/4 Kaelyn S.
- 10/5 Nicole W.
- 10/7 Mark D., Nora C.
- 10/10 Cassandra M.
- 10/14 Beckett S.
- 10/15 Alek H., Myles A.
- 10/18 Mary Lou T.
- 10/20 Jacob S.
- 10/25 Hailee C.
- 10/26 Mallorie T.
- 10/29 Drake P.
- David G. this month

# FAITH & FELLOWSHIP



Women's Retreat  
Medayto House  
Green Lake Bible Camp  
September 8-9-10, 2023



[GLLM.ORG](http://GLLM.ORG)



**GREEN LAKE**   
**LUTHERAN**  
**ministries**

# FINANCIAL CORNER

## 3 convenient ways to give

### 1. Simply Giving

Use *Simply Giving* for making regular offerings—contributions are debited automatically from your checking or savings account. **Simply Giving offers convenience for you and much need donation consistency for our congregation!** No more checks or envelopes! And, when travel, illness or other circumstances prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis. Contact the church office for an application or go online at [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org) under Give. Return completed applications to the Financial Secretary church mailbox.

### 2. Text + Give

Give in seconds with a text message. Text giving is fast, easy and versatile. Give in the moment, make your weekly offering or respond to special appeals—all in a matter of seconds. Easy card registration on your phone. Option to make your gifts recurring. To give, text the dollar amount to [866-298-7547](tel:866-298-7547).

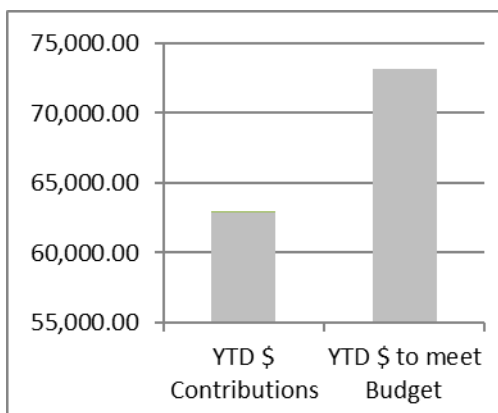
### 3. Bethel offering envelope

Offering envelopes are available—contact the church office if you would like offering envelopes mailed to you. We ask that you completely fill out the front of the envelope, including your assigned envelope number—contact the office if you have forgotten your number, and mail it to Bethel Lutheran Church, PO Box 207, Lester Prairie, MN 55354 or place in the offering plate. Any further questions can be directed to the Financial Secretary, Stacy M. at 320-395-2869 or [finsec@lpbethel.org](mailto:finsec@lpbethel.org).

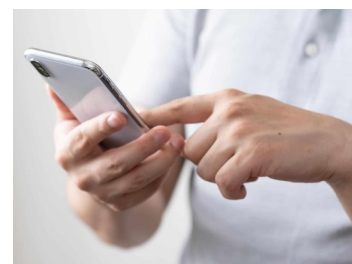
## “Noisy” offering

A second “Noisy” offering will be taken on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month toward our Youth Summer Camperships at Green Lake Bible Camp. On your way out of the sanctuary, drop your loose change into the metal can with a clang! Although paper bills and checks won't have the same “noisy” effect, they will be accepted and appreciated!

<b>For the Month of August 2023</b>	
Weekly Av. Attendance	42
\$ Contributions	7,274.40
\$ to meet Budget	9,141.22
\$ Difference	-1,866.82
<b>For the Year 2023</b>	
YTD \$ Contributions	62,855.69
YTD \$ to meet Budget	73,129.76
YTD \$ Difference	-10,274.07



*Simply Giving offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation!*



**To GIVE Text the dollar amount to 866-298-7547**



**Bethel's Financial Update**

# OCTOBER 2023

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
1 (Pent 18) 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation class 6p The Chosen	2 (office hours)	3	4 (office hours) 6:30p choir	5 (office hours)	6	7 6p Resplandor de Gloria
8 (Pent 19) (Pr. Bill) 9a worship 10:15a Sunday school NO confirmation class 6p The Chosen	9 (office hours) 6:30p council mtg.  Indigenous Peoples' Day	10	11 (office hours) 6:30p choir	12 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS	13	14 6p Resplandor de Gloria
15 (Pent 20) 9a worship 10a-2p Pumpkin Festival 5-8p Game Night	16 (office hours)	17	18 (office hours) 4p worship & music mtg. 6:30p choir 7:30p book club	19 (office hours)	20	21 6p Resplandor de Gloria
22 (Pent 21) 9a praise worship 10:15a Sunday school & confirmation class 6p The Chosen	23 (office hours)	24	25 (office hours) 1-4:30p quilting 6:30p choir newsletter deadline	26 (office hours) 1:30-3p mobile outreach-MEFS	27	28 6p Resplandor de Gloria
29 (Reformation) 9a worship/noisy offering/Confirmation Sunday 10:15a Sunday school 10:30a Breakfast w/ Bethel @ Longhorn's 6p The Chosen	30 (office hours)	31	1 (office hours) 6:30p choir	2 (office hours)	3	4 6p Resplandor de Gloria

- **Online Worship:** <https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel/live> or <https://www.lpbethel.org/worship/watch-Sunday-livestream/>
- **Worship CDs:** Contact the church office if you would like a weekly copy sent to you.
- **Bulletin Submissions Deadline:** Wednesday Noon | **Newsletter Deadline:** 25<sup>th</sup> of the month
- **Most up-to-date Calendar version:** Go to [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)
- **Church Directory:** Go to [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org), Contact Us, Member Directory, then enter the Password. Contact the church office if you need the password to view online. Contact the church office if you would like a hard copy.
- **Seeking volunteers of all ages!** Check out the bulletin board outside the church office. Sign up for a month or be a substitute! No experience necessary! Questions? Contact the chairperson.

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH | COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES | MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

**Council Members Present:** President: Ron Foust; Vice President: Peggy Wick; Secretary: Cathy Houg; Treasurer: Matt Krull; Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer; Finance Board: Nancy Krull and Mitch Overbye; Education Board: Pete Hallberg and Emily Koehler; Trustee Board: Brian Duncan and Bryon Weisenburger; Interim Pastor Susan Engholm

**Call to Order:**

- The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Ron Foust followed by a prayer led by Pastor Engholm.

**Council Business:**

- A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Pete Hallberg to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.
- Pastor Engholm reported that confirmation will be held on the last Sunday of October, Reformation Sunday.
- A funeral was held for Alan Stern on September 30, 2023, with burial at Ft. Snelling in October.

**Old Business:**

- Audit Committee job description is in progress.

**New Business:**

- No new business.

**Secretary Minutes:**

- A **motion** was made by Mitch Overbye and seconded by Pete Hallberg to accept August's secretary's report. Motion carried.

**Treasurer Reports:**

- A **motion** was made by Bryon Weisenburger and seconded by Brian Duncan to accept August's treasurer's report. Motion carried.

**Financial Secretary Report:**

- A **motion** was made by Cathy Houg and seconded by Nancy Krull to accept August's financial secretary's report. Motion carried.

**Reports:**

**Education Board:**

- Sunday School has begun. Vacation Bible School was a big success.

**Finance Board:**

- The Finance Board is looking at an overall pastoral package.

**Trustees:**

- The insurance claim to replace the church roof and garage (shingles), church siding, house wrap, and some of the gutters due to hail damage has been filed and approved. Note: Garage siding has no hail damage, therefore will not be replaced. Shingle and siding color will remain about the same. Bethel's share of this work will be our deductible and the additional gutter work that was approved in our May meeting. A motion was made by Brian Duncan and seconded by Pete Hallberg to proceed, with construction scheduled to begin in October 2023. Motion carried.
- In the next weeks the cross will be removed by a crane, sand blasted, repainted, and put back up using a crane.
- A **motion** was made by Brian Duncan and seconded by Pete Hallberg to ask Tamie Foust, secretary, and the new pastor to research new desks for the secretary's and pastor's offices. Their recommendation through the Trustees should then be brought to the Church Council for approval. Motion carried.

**Communications:**

- Pastor Susan Engholm has begun serving as our interim pastor at 50% time.
- Rev. William Nelsen will lead worship on October 8, 2023, and November 12, 2023.
- On Sunday, September 17, 2023, there will be a congregational meeting following worship with the call committee presenting a candidate of choice.

The meeting closed with Round Table Prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

**The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, October 8, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted: Cathy Houg, Council Secretary

Mark your October calendars!

## Pumpkin Festival



Sunday, October 15 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Elephant Joe's coffee truck will be there and we'll have activities for kids. We are looking for people to host a kid's activity- such as face painting, games, etc. Contact Emily Koehler if you can help.

## Family Game Night



Sunday, October 15 from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at church. Please bring a hotdish or salad to share, your own beverage, and your favorite game to play.

## CONTACT US

### Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln AVE N | PO Box 207

Lester Prairie, MN 55354

**OFFICE: 320-395-2125**

**[bethellutheranlp@gmail.com](mailto:bethellutheranlp@gmail.com)**

Visit us on the web! [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

[www.facebook.com/lpbethel](https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel)

### Pastoral Emergency Contact:

Interim Pastor Susan Engholm

320-293-1811

## MISSION STATEMENT

Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.



Bethel Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 207

Lester Prairie, MN 55354

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE